
Subject: Slow Time Test in IDL 5.4

Posted by [davidf](#) on Fri, 27 Oct 2000 20:31:22 GMT

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Folks,

Before JD goes crazy trying to analyze slow Time_Test2 values for IDL 5.4, let me alert you that a change to the IDL library routine FACTORIAL has made that routine *significantly* slower. So much so, that Time_Test2 runs about 10 times slower on PCs running IDL 5.4 than it does running earlier versions. :-(

RSI is working on the problem, but for the time being you may want to copy the IDL 5.3.1 factorial.pro over into your IDL 5.4 lib subdirectory. Having done this, we find the Time_Test2 to be noticeably faster in IDL 5.4 than in IDL 5.3.1.

Best Regards,

David

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Coyote's Guide to IDL Programming: <http://www.dfanning.com/>

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Subject: Re: Slow Time Test in IDL 5.4

Posted by [davidf](#) on Mon, 06 Nov 2000 08:00:00 GMT

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David Fanning (davidf@dfanning.com) writes:

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> than in IDL 5.3.1.

I got myself all muddled up last week trying to get about 10 things done at the same time. Then, I went to Europe before I could straighten the whole thing out. Let me see if I can put this right.

The problem was not with Time_Test2 as it happened. The problem was with the IDL 5.4 FACTORIAL routine. I made the inexcusable mistake of only personally checking half my facts instead of all of them before I posted. Sorry for any problems this caused.

Anyway, here is what I think I know about FACTORIAL routine. The routine was first optimized for vector input. So the original 5.3 routine was faster for scalar values, but the IDL 5.4 routine was faster for vector values. The IDL 5.4 routine has now been fixed and made faster for BOTH scalar and vector input. You can get the new routine from RSI, or you can get it from my web page as soon as I get an article written about it. (Soon, I hope.)

And, as I understand it, the IDL 5.3 FACTORIAL routine had some problems with non-integer input (e.g. print, factorial(5.1)). This has also been fixed in the IDL 5.4 routine.

Unfortunately, the IDL 5.4 routine takes advantage of the new WHERE keywords, so can't be run in anything but IDL 5.4, so a direct comparison of the routines is not possible.

Again, sorry for the confusion. :-(

Cheers,

David

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